

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-23 were pending and considered by the Examiner. The Examiner has identified the species set forth below and has required the applicants to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is considered to be generic to all embodiments except for FIG. 8. Claim 10 pertains specifically to FIG. 8. Claim 10 has been cancelled pursuant to this Amendment. Thus, claim 1 is generic to all embodiments set forth in the pending claims.

The remaining species identified by the Examiner are as follows:

a fastener having projections of partial thread width along partial thread length, FIG. 4;

a fastener having projections of full thread width, FIG. 7;

a fastener having depressions and clip having body with irregularities forming projections for engaging thread depressions, FIGS. 1-7;

a fastener having depressions and clip having body with irregularities forming certain projections for engaging thread depressions via the thread outer edge, FIGS. 1-5; and

a fastener having depressions and clip having body with irregularities forming certain other projections for engaging thread depressions via the surface of the pressure flank, FIG. 5. (It is noted that the undersigned believes the Examiner meant to refer to FIG. 6 and has proceeded accordingly. If the Examiner did not mean to refer to FIG. 6, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner clarify her position as FIG. 5 pertains to the fastening system of FIG. 1.)

The applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the species associated with FIG. 4. Claims 5, 7 and 9 read specifically on the elected species.

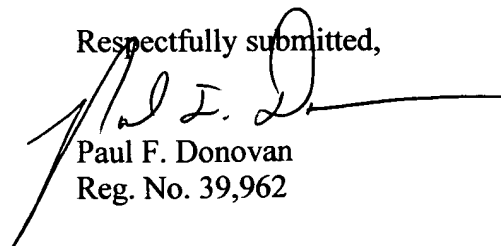
It is understood that an election of species as required is set forth to facilitate the Examiner's initial search in the examination of the application. However, the undersigned respectfully submits that a search for the elected species and the other species will not result in a serious burden on the Examiner in searching. The main difference between the elected species and the non-elected species is that the non-elected species includes a female fastening member adapted to cooperate with, for example, a male fastening member as recited in claim 1. Since there may exist many fastening systems that include a female fastening member and a male fastening member that could be relevant to the male fastening member of claim 1, a search limited to just a male fastening member may not turn up all of the pertinent prior art. Thus, in order for the Examiner to perform a thorough and complete search in regards to the fastener of claim 1, the Examiner should also search for fastening systems that include both a female fastening member and a male fastening member. Such a search would, therefore, encompass the subject matter of the non-elected species of the present invention. For at least these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the pending election of species requirement be reconsidered before the applicants and the Office are put to the burden and expense of potentially prosecuting multiple applications for the subject invention. Favorable action on the present application is requested. In the event that there are any issues which can be expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

An IDS citing new art that the undersigned recently became aware of is included herewith.

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Respectfully submitted,



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